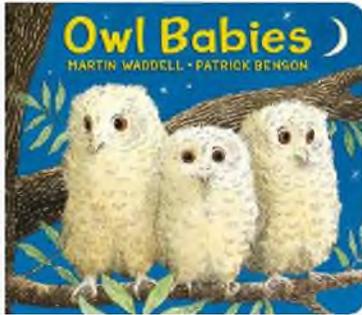


Pre-K Story Time



Owl Babies

By Martin Waddell

Three baby owls awake one night to find their mother gone, and they can't help but wonder where she is. What is she doing? When will she be back? Stunning illustrations from striking perspectives capture the anxious little owls as they worry. Not surprisingly, joyous flapping, dancing, and bouncing greet the mother's return, lending a celebratory tone to the end of this comforting tale. Never has the plight of young ones who miss their mother been so simply told or so beautifully rendered. (Ages 3-5)

Introducing this book to young children:



CLL5.4a

Before reading *Owl Babies*, preview the story by completing a picture walk and discussing the pictures with the children. Point out important picture clues on each page and talk about what you see. Encourage children to make predictions about what will happen and make real life connections to what they see in the book.



SED2.4b

During reading, ask children if they have ever experienced the same feelings as the baby owls. Define the words "frightened", "patient", "anxious", and "relieved". Discuss what it means to miss someone when you are not able to be with them. Encourage children to describe how it makes them feel to miss a loved one and how they feel when that person returns.



SED2.4d

After reading, look at the illustrations and lead children in a discussion about the owl babies. Encourage children to identify each owl by name and describe what the owls look like. Draw attention to the owl's facial expressions and point out the owl's emotions: How do you think they are feeling? What details do you see that make you think that? Have you ever felt this way?

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Repeated readings of the same book provide opportunities for young children to develop a sense of competence and confidence with the text. Each time children have a book reread to them, they learn concepts of print, become more familiar with vocabulary, gain deeper understanding of the story, and make text-to-self connections. Read *Owl Babies* for several days in a row and use the ideas, activities, and teaching opportunities listed below to enhance children’s enjoyment and comprehension of the story.

GELDS Activity Spotlight

Opening Activity

Engage the children in a conversation about what happens when family members have to go away for work or an errand. Ask, “How do you feel when someone in your family has to leave? What can you do while you wait for them to come back?” Pass a beanbag for turn taking. **SED2**

Large Group Literacy

Create a class chart titled “When We Wait.” Work with the children to brainstorm a list of times we might have to wait or be patient. Discuss and chart ideas of things we could do while we wait. **CLL5.4d**

Calm Down Area

Laminate a picture of each child with their family and add these photos to the Calm Down Area. When children are missing their parents, they can visit the Calm Down Area to look at their family photos. Add paper and crayons to the Calm Down Area and encourage children to draw a picture of what their family members do during the day. **SED3.4b**

Small Group

Use puppets or flannel board pieces to retell the story. Describe the social-emotional vocabulary from the book (brave, relieved, patient, anxious). Use the character’s feelings to help children make connections to their own emotions and reactions to events in their lives. **SED2.4b**

Focus on Family

Help families understand the importance of predictability and routines for helping children regulate their emotions. Encourage families to develop a routine for saying goodbye to help make the transition from home to school quick and less stressful.

Pyramid Model Parent Connection Resource:
[How to Help Your Child Have a Successful Morning](#)
[How to Help Your Child Have a Successful Morning-Spanish Version](#)

